

Remarks

Applicant has elected to prosecute the invention of Group I in the present application, without traverse, and provisionally elected to prosecute the species of Species Groups 3a and 1b, with traverse. In support of Applicant's traverse of the restriction requirement of the species of the elected invention, Applicant would comment as follows.

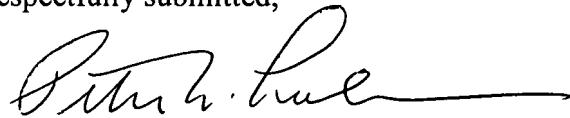
The application as presently restricted describes and claims two basic support structures consisting of support structures TK1 and TK2 disclosed in Figures 1 and 2, and TK3 disclosed in Figures 4, 5 and 6. Support structures TK1 and TK2 are conceptually similar, distinguishing from each other only with respect to the means of connection and disposition of the anchor members. Support structures TK3 disclosed in Figures 6, 7 and 8 are substantially identical. The embodiment shown in Figure 6 is essentially simply a combination of support structure TK1 shown in Figure 1 and support structure TK3. The embodiment shown in Figure 7 is essentially a combination of the support structure shown in Figure 2 and support structure TK3. The embodiment disclosed in Figure 8 essentially is similar to the embodiment shown in Figure 6 with the support structures TK3 and TK1 inverted. Accordingly, support structures TK1 and TK2 disclosed in Figures 1 and 2 and combinations of the support structures shown in Figures 1 and 2 with support structure TK3 shown in Figures 6, 7 and 8 comprise closely related species.

The anchoring members shown in Figures 3 and 4 and the means for connecting such members together, and the anchoring members shown in Figure 5 and the means for connecting such members together, are similar in terms of the configurations of the anchoring members and the forms of the connecting means. The configuration of the anchoring members shown in Figures 3 and 4 are essentially T-shaped and the configuration of the anchoring members shown in Figure 5 are essentially U-shaped. The connecting means provided in such two arrangements

differ only in terms of utilizing one interconnecting means in the member shown in Figures 3 and 4, and utilizing two interconnecting means in the member shown in Figure 5.

In view of the foregoing, it respectfully is requested that the restriction requirement with regard to the species be withdrawn, and further that the examination of the application proceed to a consideration on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter N. Lalos", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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